

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 06274 271349Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----050505 271352Z /47
Z 271337Z FEB 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6033
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
WHITEHOUSE WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 06274

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

JERUSALEM FOR USDEL ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, XF, US
SUBJECT: SADAT MESSAGE TO BEGIN
REF: (A)STATE 49698, (B)CAIRO 6202, (C)CAIRO 6172,
- (D)JERUSALEM 524, (E)TEL AVIV 2577

1. AS WE HAD ARRANGED, I CALLED FONMIN KAMEL THIS EVENING (2200 LOCAL) TO ASK IF HE HAD GOTTEN SADAT'S REACTION TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT ROY ATHERTON DEFER DELIVERY OF THE ORAL MESSAGE TO PRIMIN BEGIN UNTIL AFTER ROY HAS BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN LATER THIS WEEK CLARIFICATION FROM SADAT ON CERTAIN POINTS. KAMEL SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH SADAT ON THE PHONE AND THE PRESIDENT AGREES TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT DELIVERY OF MESSAGE BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER ROY VISITS HERE A SECOND TIME AND HAS OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY WITH SADAT AND/OR KAMEL OUTSTANDING POINTS.
2. KAMEL INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT SADAT IS "VERY UPSET" ABOUT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM JERUSALEM THIS EVENING, APPARENTLY
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AFTER TODAY'S ISRAELI CABINET MEETING, THAT SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI WILL CONTINUE. (NEITHER KAMEL NOR I HAVE SEEN OR HEAD SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT.) ACCORDING KAMEL, SADAT WONDERED WHETHER, IN LIGHT ISRAELI CABINET DECISION, THERE IS ANY USE IN PROCEEDING WITH EFFORTS TRY TO WORK OUT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IF THIS IS ISRAELI POSITION. SADAT, KAMEL INDICATED, HAD

SAID THE ONLY HOPE OF GETTING THE ISRAELIS TO BACK OFF THEIR SETTLEMENTS AMBITIONS IN SINAI IS IF PRESIDENT CARTER PRESSURES PRIMIN BEGIN BY ANY MEANS AVAILABLE THAT REMOVAL OF THE SETTLEMENTS IS A "MUST" IF ME PEACE PROCESS IS TO CONTINUE. SADAT HAD EMPHASIZED THAT HE CAN UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ACCEPT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS OR BASES IN SINAI. ISRAEL CANNOT HAVE PEACE AND LAND; IT MUST CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER. BEGIN SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSION ON THIS SCORE AND KAMEL HOPED AHERTON WILL MAKE THAT POINT TO BEGIN WHEN ROY MEETS WITH ISRAELI PRIMIN TOMORROW. SADAT HAD SAID THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ISRAELI CABINET DECISION MAKES THE WHOLE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES EFFORT LOOK LIKE A JOKE.

3. KAMEL ASKED THAT HE AND I GET TOGETHER BEFORE ROY RETURNS ON TUESDAY TO GO OVER THE POINTS ON WHICH CLARIFICATION IS NEEDED. BECAUSE OF A CABINET AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEETING, HE IS APPARENTLY FULLY OCCUPIED TOMORROW, WE HAVE THEREFORE TENTATIVELY ARRANGED TO MEET TUESDAY MORNING BEFORE ROY ARRIVES.

4. AS PARA 4 REF B STATES, ONE OF MAJOR ISSUES IS QUESTION OF SADAT'S UNDERSTANDING OF COMMITMENTS UNDER SINAI II. I HOPE TO SEND SOME THOUGHTS ON HOW TO HANDLE THIS TOMORROW. MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, WOULD SEEM TO BE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ISRAELI CABINET DECISION ON
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SETTLEMENTS, IF SADAT'S ACCOUNT IS CORRECT, AND EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON ME PEACE PROCESS. IF ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT IS AS STRONG AS SADAT SEEMS TO BELIEVE, IT WOULD HELP ROY'S NEXT VISIT HERE A GREAT DEAL IF USG ISSUES STRONG COUNTER STATEMENT REITERATING USG VIEWS ON SETTLEMENTS BEFORE ROY'S NEXT MEETING WITH SADAT. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, LAND SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE PLANS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO06274
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA 19840227
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: P850059-2091
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780210/aaaaaifb.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 34bfcdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 49698, 78 CAIRO 6202, 78 CAIRO 6172, 78 JERUSALEM 524, 78 TEL AVIV 2577, 78 CAIRO 56172
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3426941
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040616; <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040616
Subject: SADAT MESSAGE TO BEGIN
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PBOR, XF, US, EG, IS, (SADAT, ANWAR), (BEGIN, MENACHEM)
To: STATE JERUSALEM MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/34bfcdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014